

# FABLES™

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ten years on the edge

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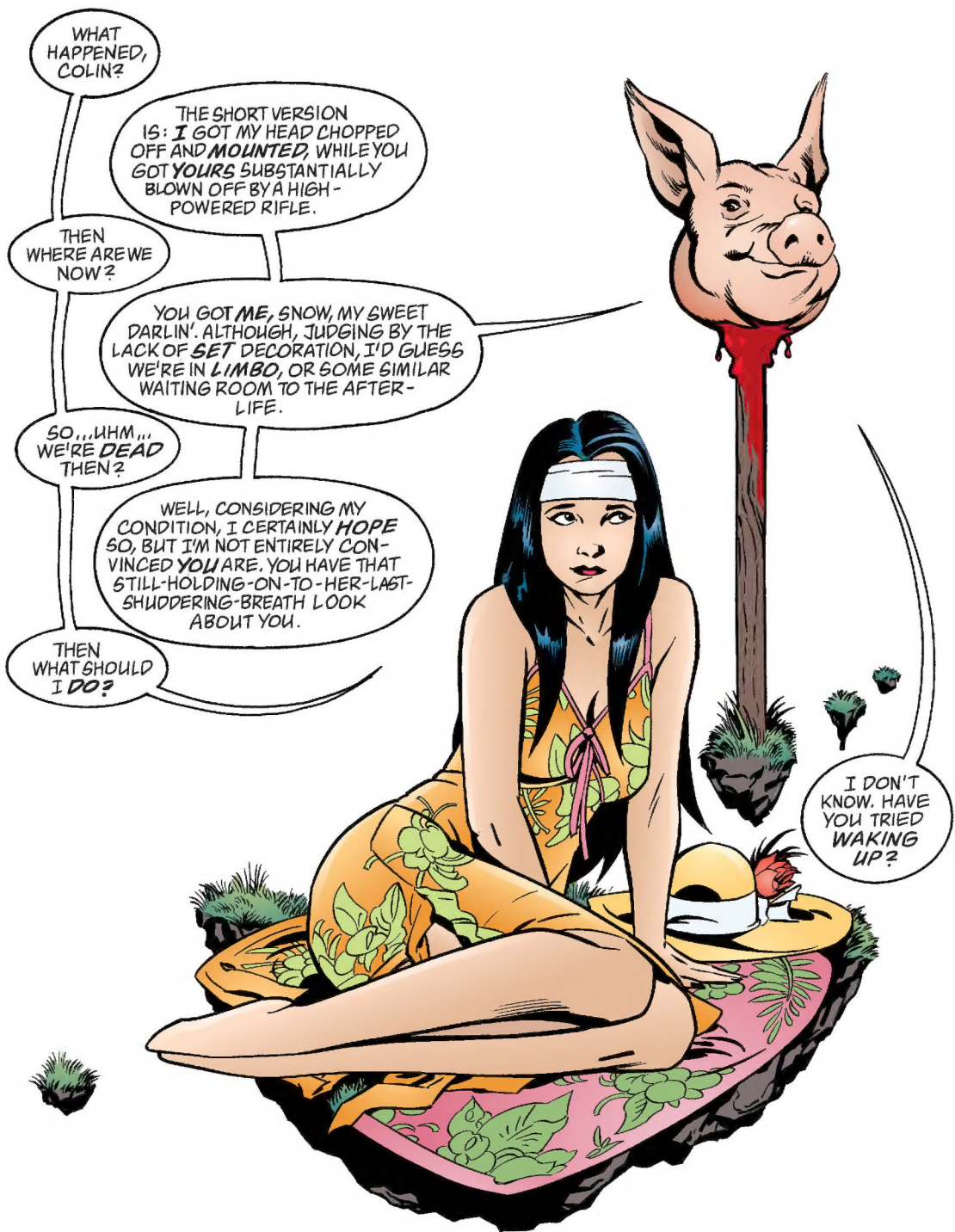
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SUGGESTED FOR  
MATURE READERS

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# Twilight of the Dogs Part Five of Animal Farm

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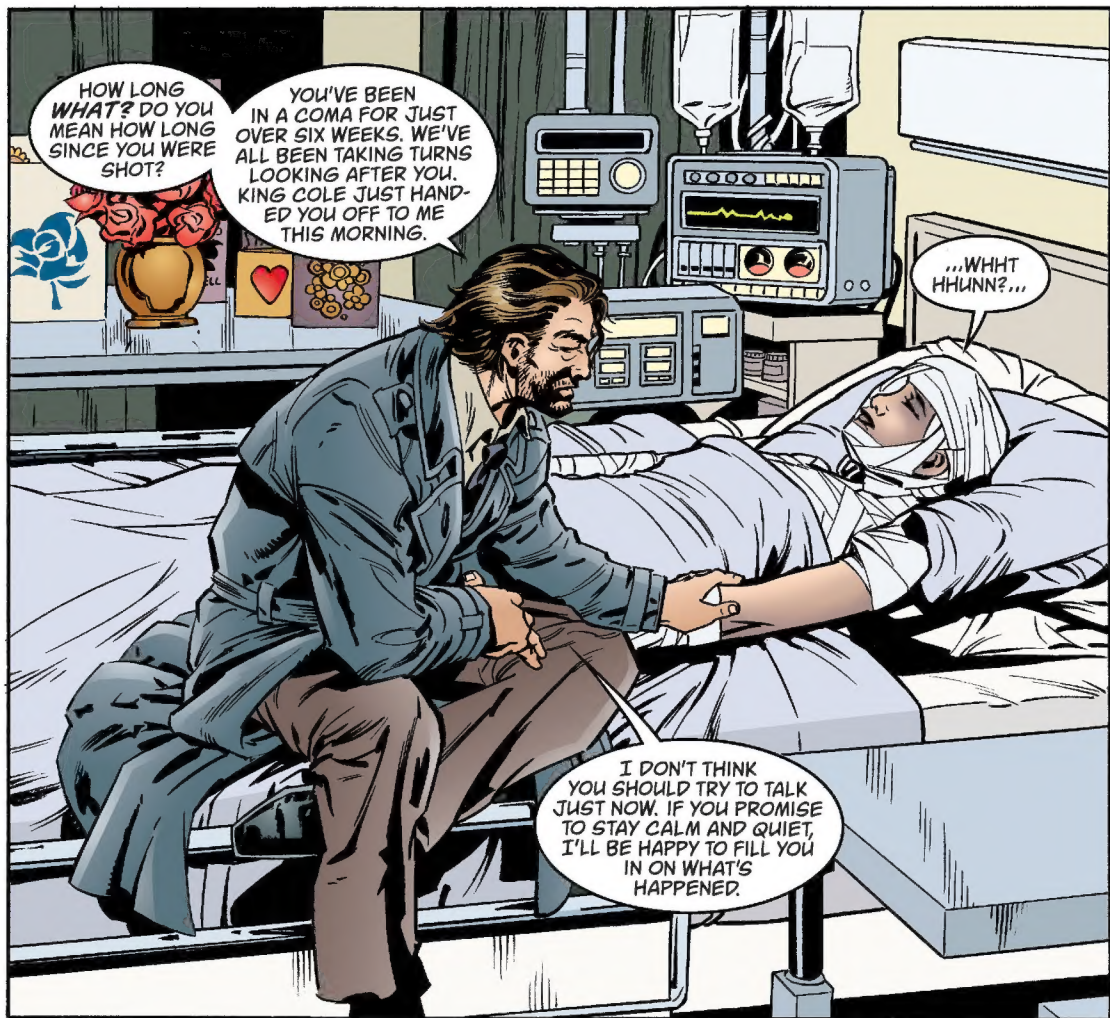


...HNNGN?...



WELCOME  
BACK, SNOW.

...HNNWW  
RRNG?...



HOW LONG  
WHAT? DO YOU  
MEAN HOW LONG  
SINCE YOU WERE  
SHOT?

YOU'VE BEEN  
IN A COMA FOR JUST  
OVER SIX WEEKS. WE'VE  
ALL BEEN TAKING TURNS  
LOOKING AFTER YOU.  
KING COLE JUST HAND-  
ED YOU OFF TO ME  
THIS MORNING.

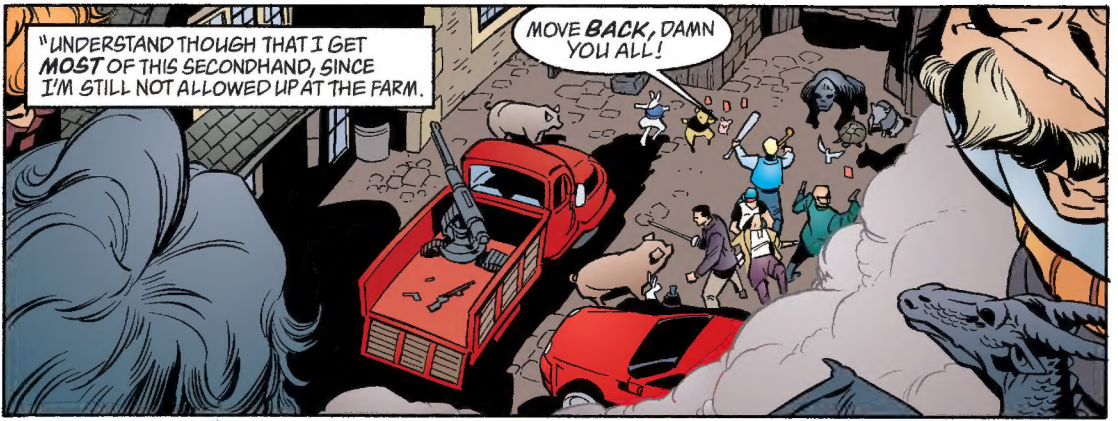
...WHHT  
HHLUNN?...

I DON'T THINK  
YOU SHOULD TRY TO TALK  
JUST NOW. IF YOU PROMISE  
TO STAY CALM AND QUIET,  
I'LL BE HAPPY TO FILL YOU  
IN ON WHAT'S  
HAPPENED.



BUT  
ONLY FOR A  
MINUTE OR  
TWO.

THEN I  
NEED TO TELL  
DOCTOR SWINE-  
HEART THAT  
YOU'RE BACK  
AMONG US.



"UNDERSTAND THOUGH THAT I GET MOST OF THIS SECONDHAND, SINCE I'M STILL NOT ALLOWED UP AT THE FARM."

MOVE BACK, DAMN YOU ALL!



"THE FOILED REVOLUTION THREATENED TO FLARE UP AGAIN, IN THE CHAOS THAT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED YOUR SHOOTING."

da-TA! da-TA! da-TA!

SETTLE DOWN, EVERY GOD-CURSED ONE OF YOU, OR I'LL GUN THE LOT OF YOU DOWN WHERE YOU STAND!

"BUT BOY BLUE, BLUEBEARD AND YOUR EX-HUSBAND QUICKLY TOOK CONTROL."



AND YOU, BOY, DON'T BLOW THAT BLOODY HORN AGAIN, OR I MIGHT FORGET YOU'RE ON OUR SIDE!



"I UNDERSTAND EVEN BOY BLUE'S MONKEY WAS OF SOME HELP, ALTHOUGH I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW."

HEAVE TO, CHICKEN LITTLE! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE OUR SWIFT, SURE JUSTICE!

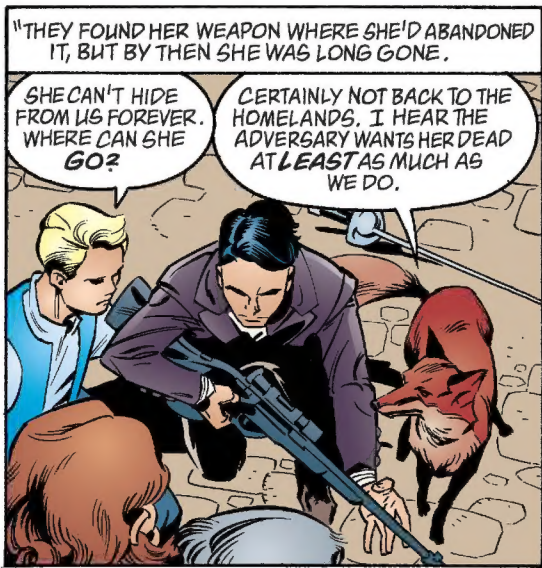
BUT I'M INNOCENT! I WAS FRAMED! MY HEART WAS ALWAYS WITH YOU GUYS! HONEST!



"ONCE A SEMBLANCE OF ORDER WAS RESTORED, THE LOYAL FABLES WERE FANNED OUT ON A SEARCH FOR GOLDILOCKS.

DO YOU REALLY THINK THERE'S A CHANCE SHE'S *STILL* NEARBY?

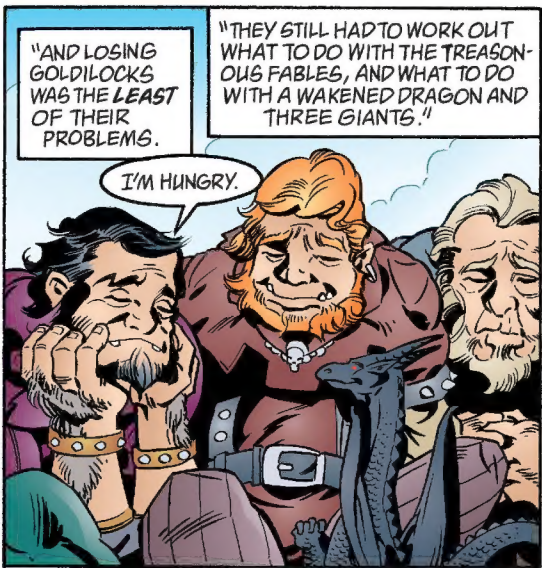
SHE'S HAD MORE THAN AN *HOUR* TO MAKE HER GETAWAY.



"THEY FOUND HER WEAPON WHERE SHE'D ABANDONED IT, BUT BY THEN SHE WAS LONG GONE.

SHE CAN'T HIDE FROM US FOREVER. WHERE CAN SHE GO?

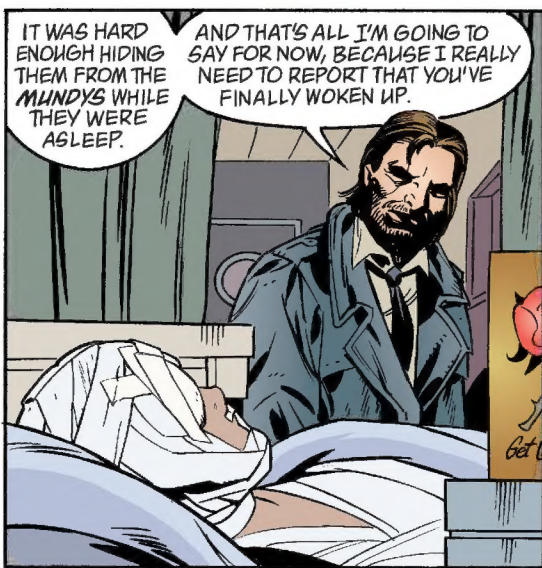
CERTAINLY NOT BACK TO THE HOMELANDS. I HEAR THE ADVERSARY WANTS HER DEAD AT LEAST AS MUCH AS WE DO.



"AND LOSING GOLDILOCKS WAS THE LEAST OF THEIR PROBLEMS.

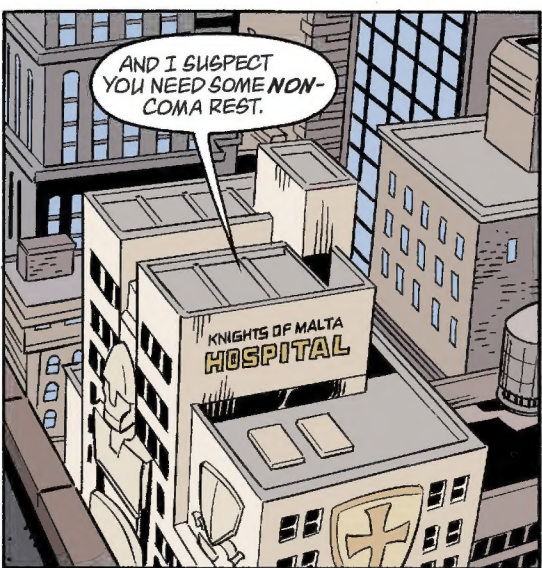
"THEY STILL HAD TO WORK OUT WHAT TO DO WITH THE TREASONOUS FABLES, AND WHAT TO DO WITH A WAKENED DRAGON AND THREE GIANTS."

I'M HUNGRY.

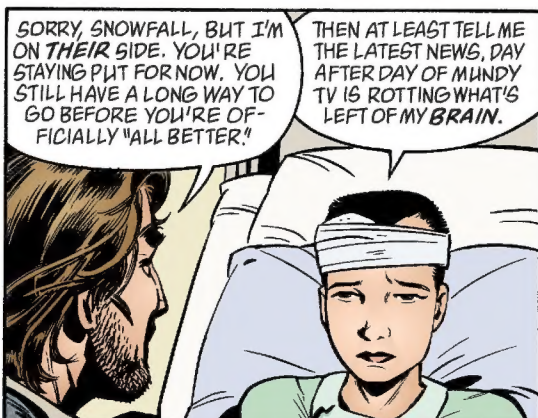
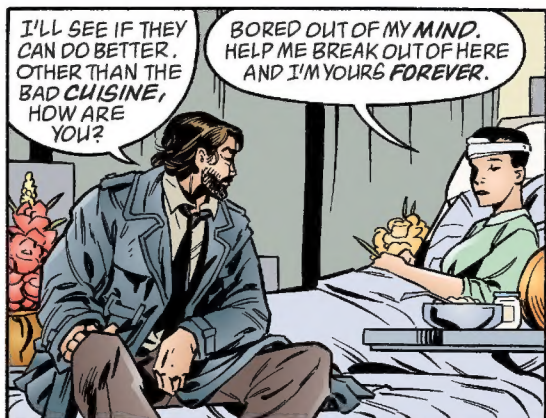
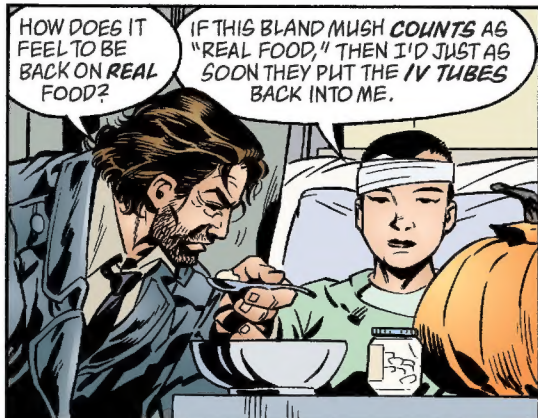


IT WAS HARD ENOUGH HIDING THEM FROM THE MUNDYS WHILE THEY WERE ASLEEP.

AND THAT'S ALL I'M GOING TO SAY FOR NOW, BECAUSE I REALLY NEED TO REPORT THAT YOU'VE FINALLY WOKEN UP.



AND I SUSPECT YOU NEED SOME *NON-COMA* REST.





STAY IN LINE! NO TALKING!

REMEMBER: IF YOU WISH TO PRESENT EVIDENCE IN MITIGATION, EXTENUATION OR EVEN REFUTATION OF ANY CHARGES, IT IS UP TO YOU TO MENTION IT WHEN YOU GET TO THE FRONT OF THE LINE.



NEXT?

KING LOLIE, OF THE KIPLING GROUP OF FABLES.

CHARGES?

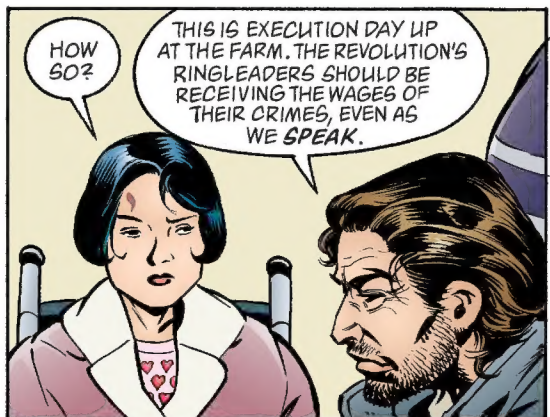
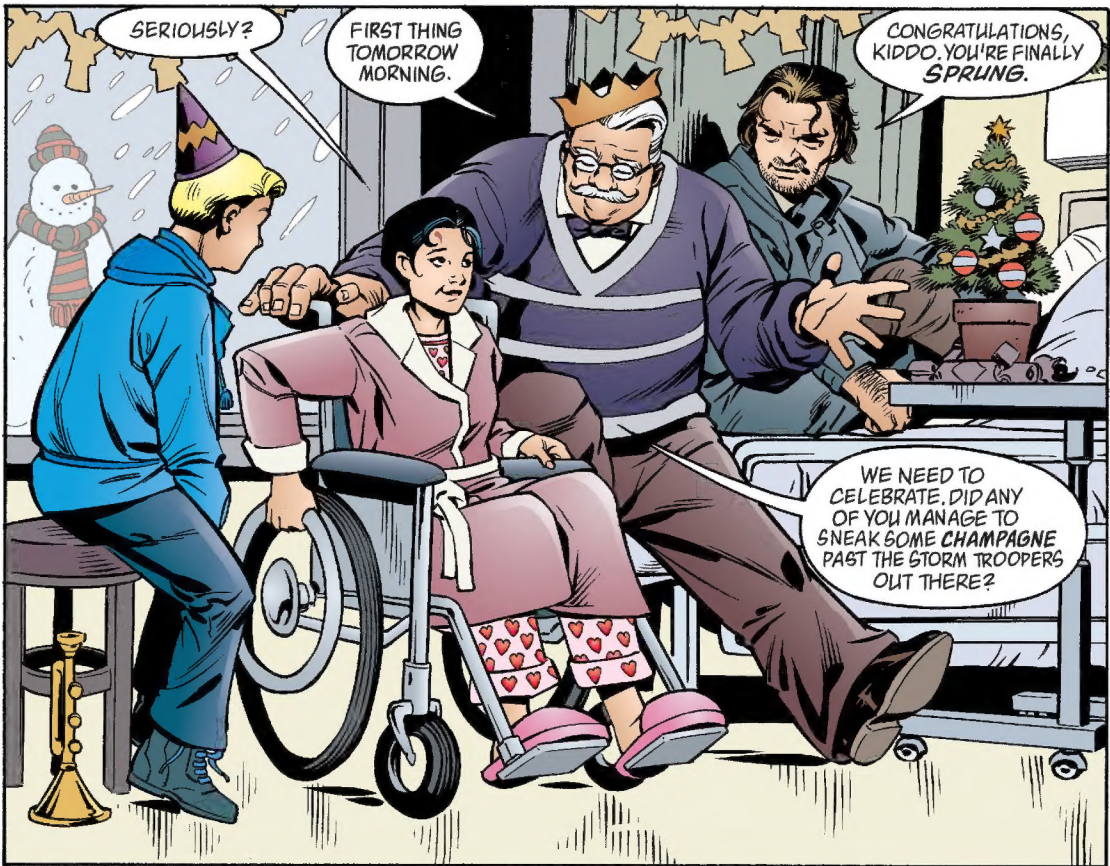
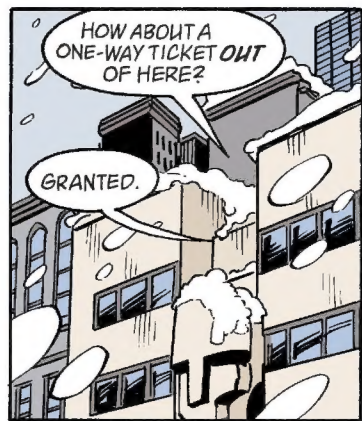


ACTIVELY AIDING THE REVOLUTIONARIES, BUT NOT ONE OF THE RINGLEADERS. HE TOOK PART IN THE HUNT FOR SNOW WHITE.

DO YOU DISPUTE THESE CHARGES OR INSIST ON A FORMAL TRIAL?









DUN PIG, YOU ALSO HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF HIGH CRIMES AGAINST FABLEKIND, FOR WHICH THE SENTENCE IS DEATH.

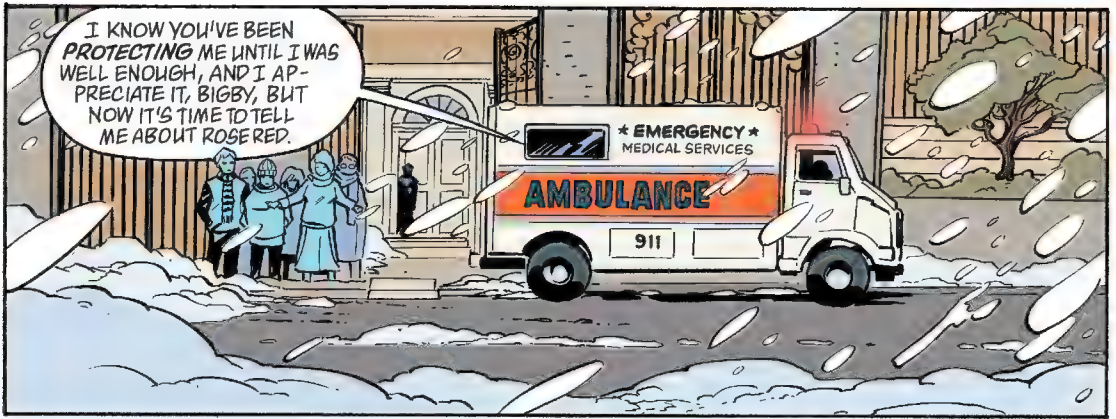
JACK KETCH, CARRY OUT THE SENTENCE.

AND TRY TO DO A BETTER JOB ON ME THAN YOU DID ON MY COUSIN, YOU IN-COMPETENT BUTCHER.

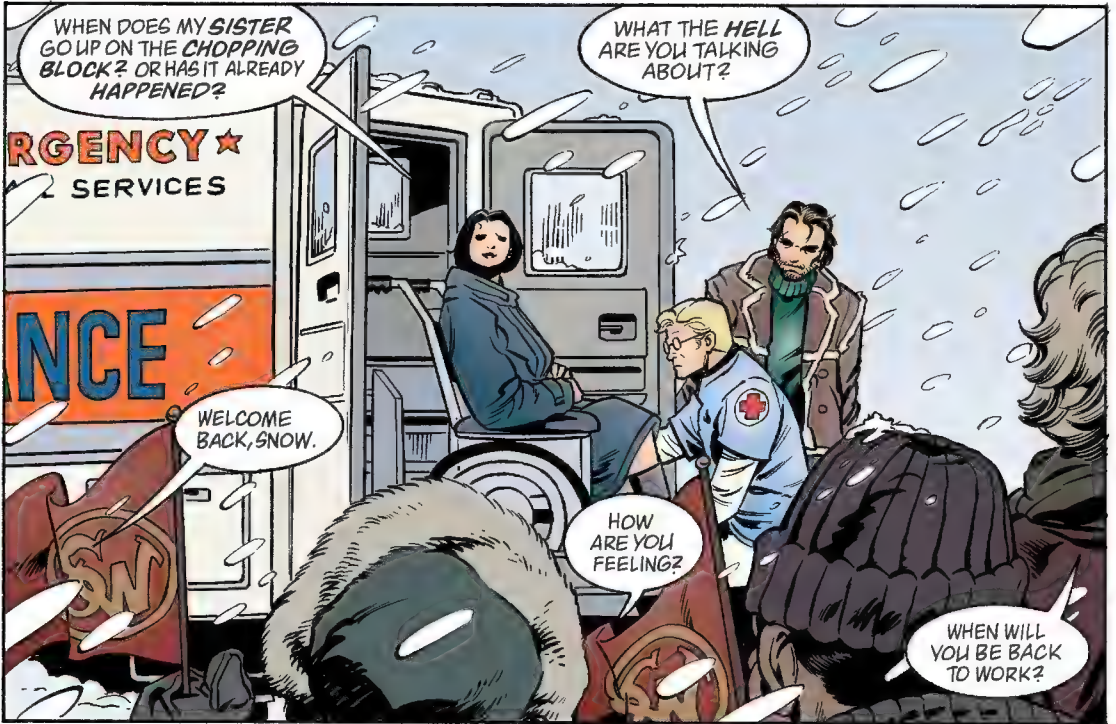
SEE IF YOU CAN DO THIS ONE IN TEN CHOPS OR LESS.







I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN PROTECTING ME UNTIL I WAS WELL ENOUGH, AND I APPRECIATE IT, BIGBY, BUT NOW IT'S TIME TO TELL ME ABOUT ROSE RED.



WHEN DOES MY SISTER GO UP ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK? OR HAS IT ALREADY HAPPENED?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

EMERGENCY SERVICES

ANCE

WELCOME BACK, SNOW.

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

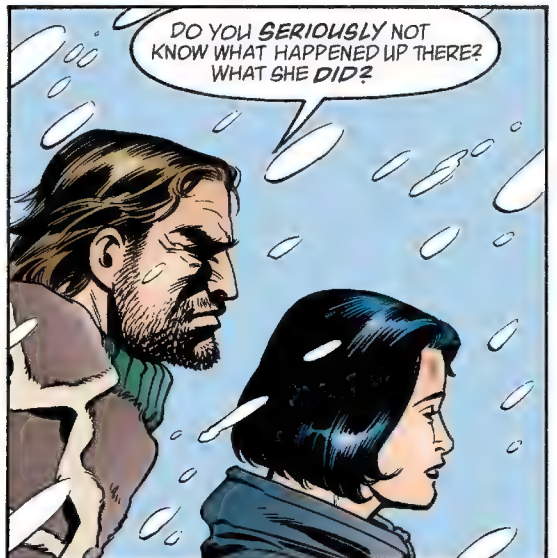
WHEN WILL YOU BE BACK TO WORK?



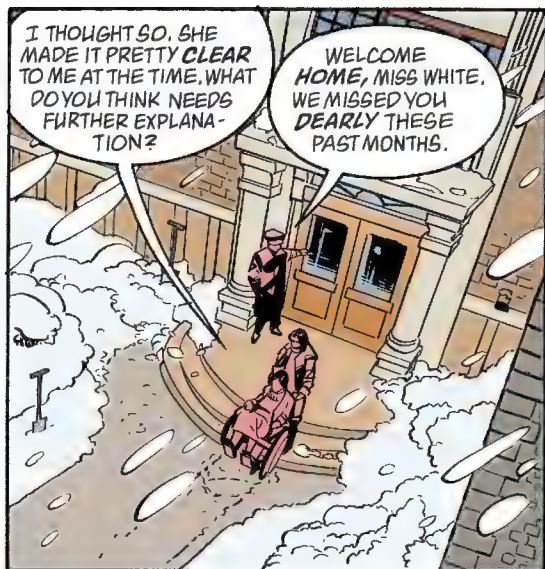
SHE WAS ONE OF THE RINGLEADERS, EVEN THOUGH SHE JOINED LATE, SHE --

ARE YOU JOKING?

I NEED TO RENEGOTIATE MY RENT AGAIN...

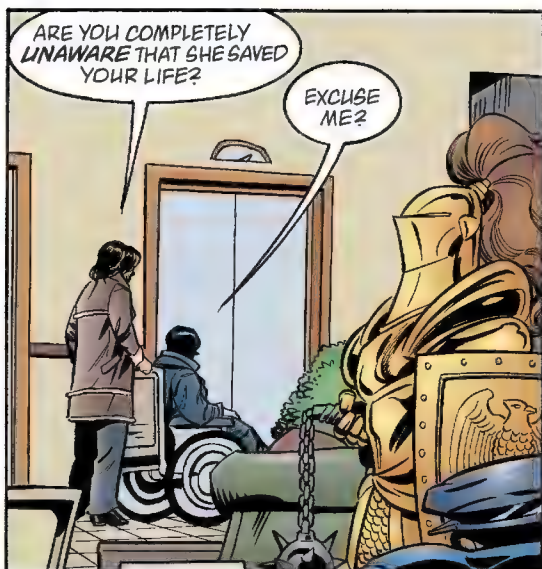


DO YOU SERIOUSLY NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE? WHAT SHE DID?



I THOUGHT SO. SHE MADE IT PRETTY CLEAR TO ME AT THE TIME. WHAT DO YOU THINK NEEDS FURTHER EXPLANATION?

WELCOME HOME, MISS WHITE. WE MISSED YOU DEARLY THESE PAST MONTHS.



ARE YOU COMPLETELY UNAWARE THAT SHE SAVED YOUR LIFE?

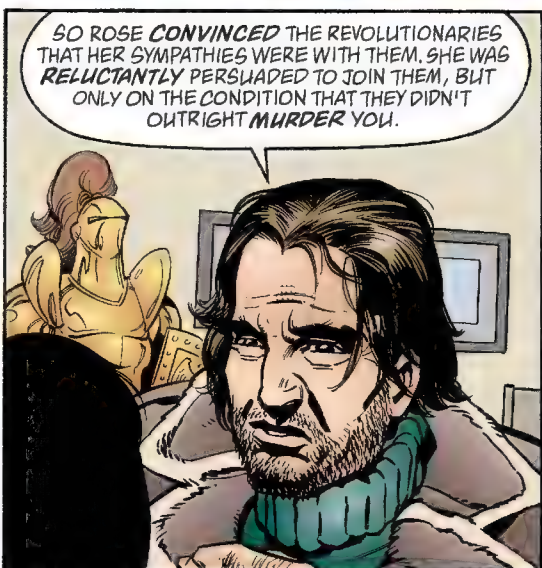
EXCUSE ME?



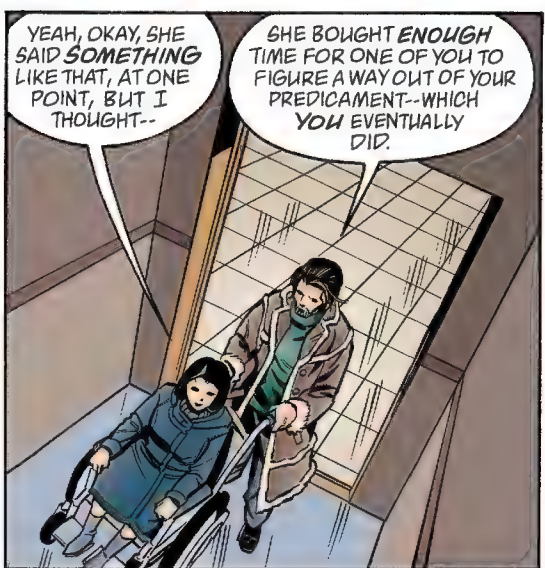
IT ALL CAME OUT AT HER HEARING.

THE REVOLUTIONARIES HAD JUST KILLED COLIN AND AFTER CUTTING YOU ENTIRELY OFF FROM OUTSIDE CONTACT, IT WAS OBVIOUS TO HER -- IF NOT YOU -- THAT THE TWO OF YOU WERE NEXT.

IT WAS UNLIKELY YOU'D SURVIVE THE NIGHT, IN FACT.



SO ROSE CONVINCED THE REVOLUTIONARIES THAT HER SYMPATHIES WERE WITH THEM. SHE WAS RELUCTANTLY PERSUADED TO JOIN THEM, BUT ONLY ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY DIDN'T OUTHRIGHT MURDER YOU.

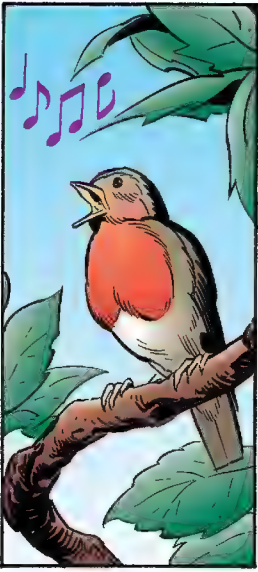


YEAH, OKAY, SHE SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT, AT ONE POINT, BUT I THOUGHT--

SHE BOUGHT ENOUGH TIME FOR ONE OF YOU TO FIGURE A WAY OUT OF YOUR PREDICAMENT-- WHICH YOU EVENTUALLY DID.



GOD STRIKE ME DOWN FOR A FOOL, BIGBY. I NEVER REALIZED--





I DON'T **BLAME** YOU FOR WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE, WEYLAND.

BUSINESS OFFICE  
S. WHITE

WE HAVEN'T YET BEEN CORRUPTED BY THE MUNDYS' MODERN SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY CONCERNING SUCH THINGS. THE RESPONSIBILITY LIES ENTIRELY WITH THE **PERPETRATORS**, AND NOT THEIR VICTIMS.

I'M RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT, SNOW.

JUST THE SAME, THOUGH, YOU HAVE TO REALIZE THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN RESUME ADMINISTRATION OF THE FARM.

YES. I KNEW, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I WAS FINISHED THERE THE NIGHT THEY FIRST CAME FOR ME. YOU NEED A BOSS WHO CAN CONTINUE TO COMMAND THEIR RESPECT.

I'M SORRY, WEYLAND.

NOT AT ALL. TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M ACTUALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO MOVING DOWN TO THE CITY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN--WHAT? HAS IT BEEN A FULL CENTURY NOW?



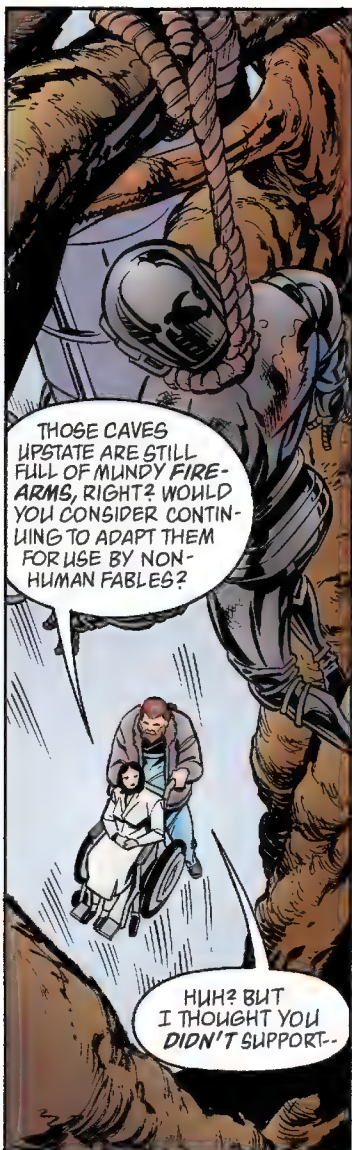
I'LL APPROVE IT, IF THAT'S YOUR *DECISION*, BUT I WONDER IF I CAN TALK YOU INTO TAKING ON A *NEW TASK* FIRST.

YES?



LET'S STROLL A BIT, SOMEWHERE WE CAN TALK MORE *PRIVATELY*.

YOU PUSH.



THOSE CAVES UPSTATE ARE STILL FULL OF MUNDY *FIRE-ARMS*, RIGHT? WOULD YOU CONSIDER CONTINUING TO ADAPT THEM FOR USE BY NON-HUMAN FABLES?

HUH? BUT I THOUGHT YOU *DIDN'T* SUPPORT--



NO, I SUPPORTED NEITHER THEIR *REVOLUTION* NOR THEIR *METHODS*. BUT THEIR IDEA TO CREATE *MODERN ARMS* WE CAN USE AGAINST THE *ADVERSARY* IS A GOOD ONE.

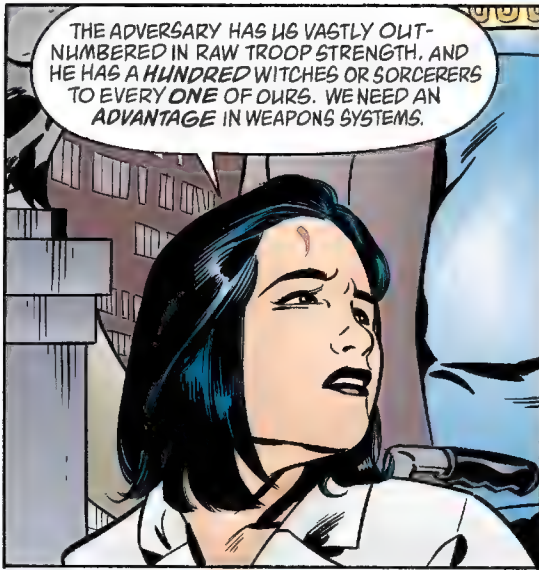
WE'D BE *FOOLS* NOT TO FOLLOW UP ON IT.



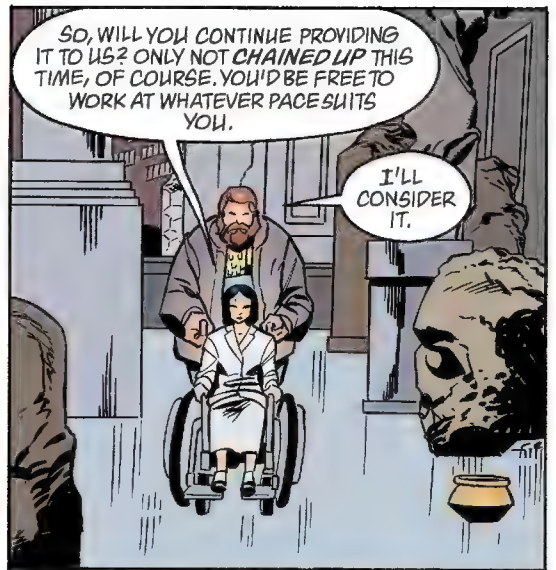
YOU WANT TO *INVADE* THE *HOMELANDS*?

OF COURSE. NOT TODAY, NOT THIS YEAR, AND PROBABLY NOT EVEN THIS *DECADE*-- BUT *SOMEDAY*, YES.



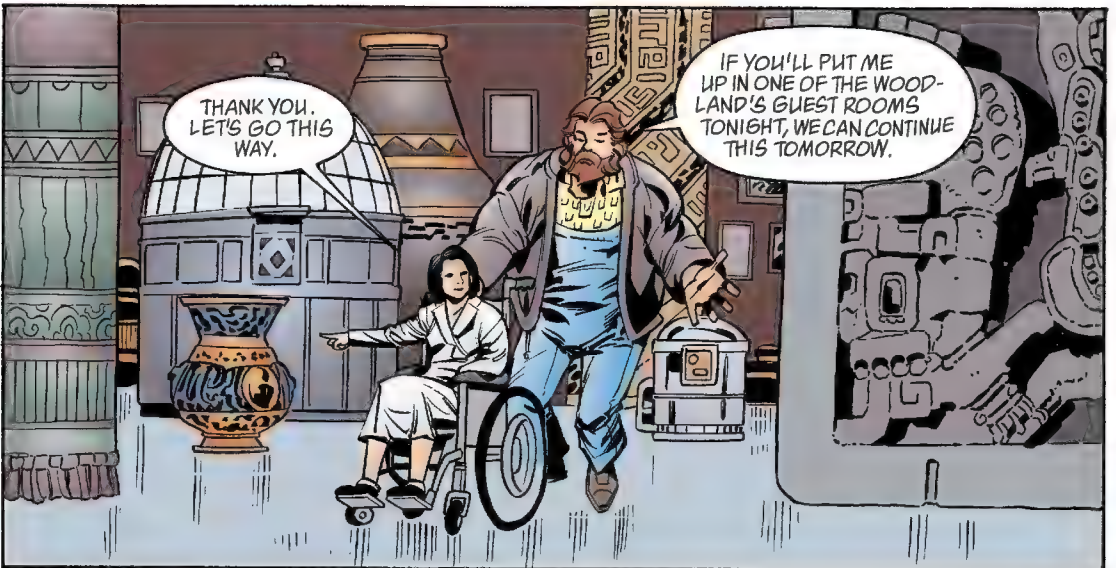


THE ADVERSARY HAS US VASTLY OUT-NUMBERED IN RAW TROOP STRENGTH. AND HE HAS A HUNDRED WITCHES OR SORCERERS TO EVERY ONE OF OURS. WE NEED AN ADVANTAGE IN WEAPONS SYSTEMS.



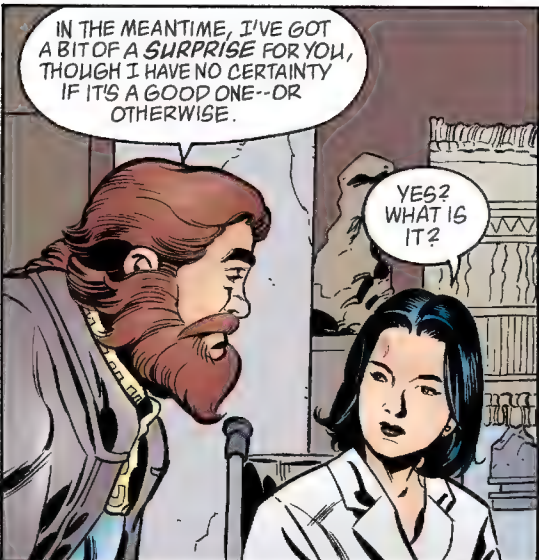
SO, WILL YOU CONTINUE PROVIDING IT TO US? ONLY NOT CHAINED UP THIS TIME, OF COURSE. YOU'D BE FREE TO WORK AT WHATEVER PACE SUITS YOU.

I'LL CONSIDER IT.



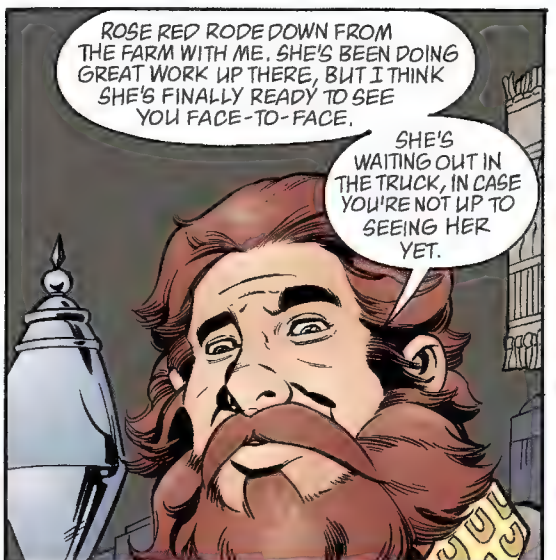
THANK YOU. LET'S GO THIS WAY.

IF YOU'LL PUT ME UP IN ONE OF THE WOODLAND'S GUEST ROOMS TONIGHT, WE CAN CONTINUE THIS TOMORROW.



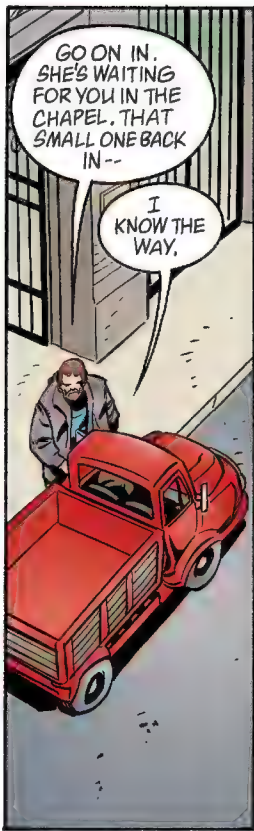
IN THE MEANTIME, I'VE GOT A BIT OF A SURPRISE FOR YOU, THOUGH I HAVE NO CERTAINTY IF IT'S A GOOD ONE--OR OTHERWISE.

YES? WHAT IS IT?



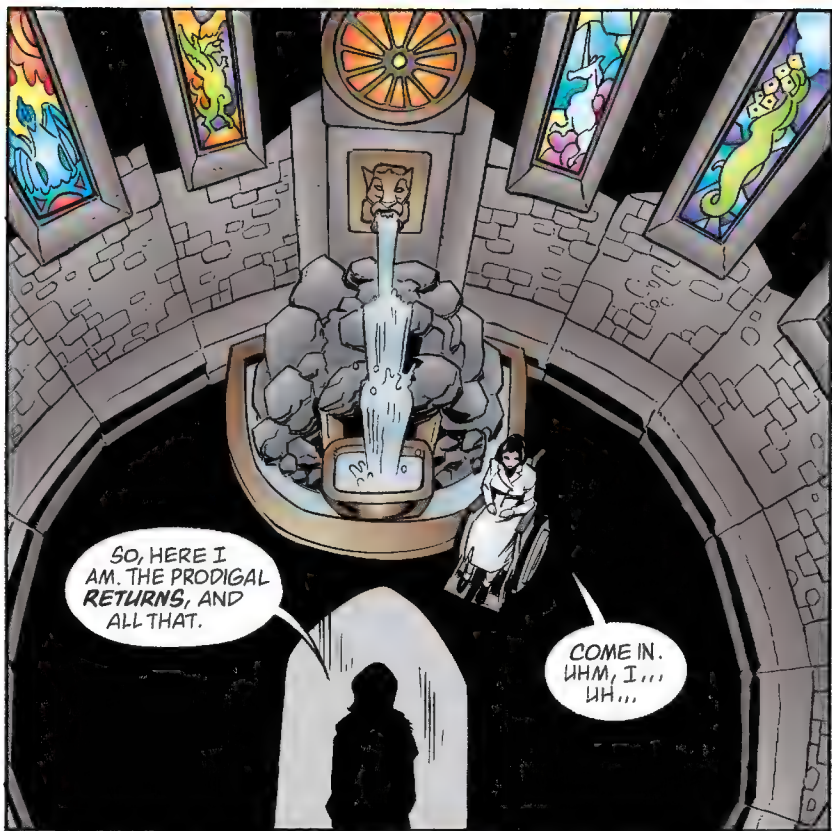
ROSE RED RODE DOWN FROM THE FARM WITH ME. SHE'S BEEN DOING GREAT WORK UP THERE, BUT I THINK SHE'S FINALLY READY TO SEE YOU FACE-TO-FACE.

SHE'S WAITING OUT IN THE TRUCK, IN CASE YOU'RE NOT UP TO SEEING HER YET.



GO ON IN. SHE'S WAITING FOR YOU IN THE CHAPEL. THAT SMALL ONE BACK IN--

I KNOW THE WAY.

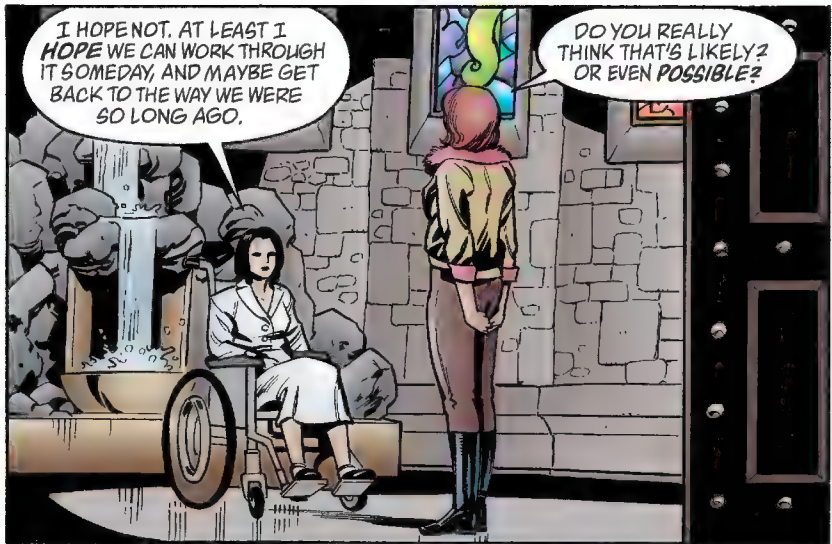


SO, HERE I AM. THE PRODIGAL RETURNS, AND ALL THAT.

COME IN. UHM, I... UH...

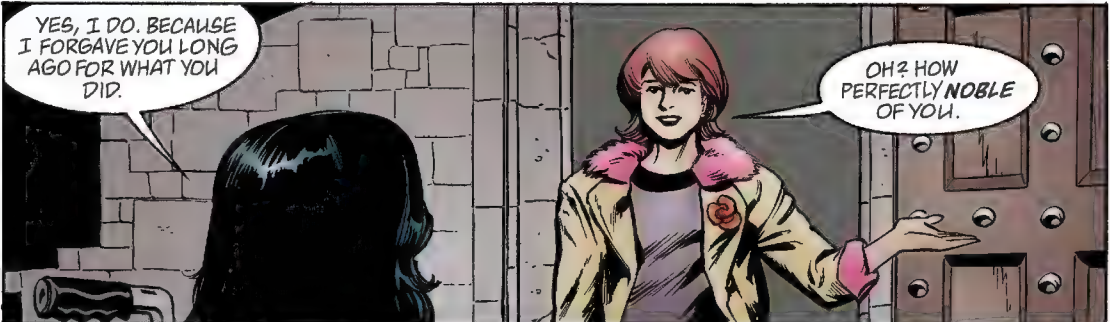


OBVIOUSLY JUST IN TIME FOR THE LATEST IN A NEVER-ENDING STRING OF AWKWARD MOMENTS BETWEEN ESTRANGED SISTERS.



I HOPE NOT. AT LEAST I HOPE WE CAN WORK THROUGH IT SOMEDAY, AND MAYBE GET BACK TO THE WAY WE WERE SO LONG AGO.

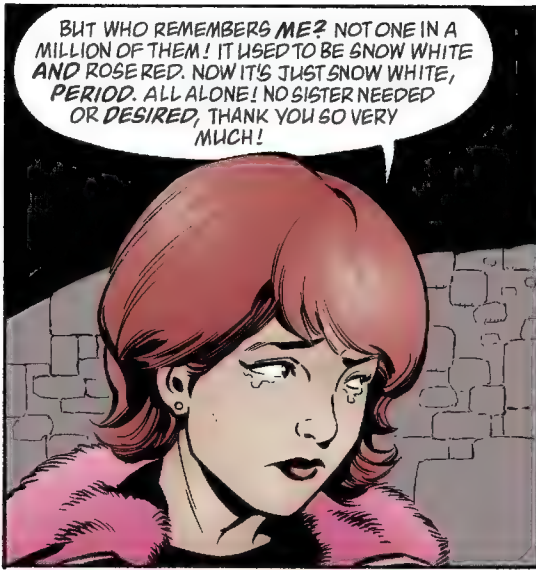
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S LIKELY? OR EVEN POSSIBLE?



YES, I DO. BECAUSE I FORGAVE YOU LONG AGO FOR WHAT YOU DID.

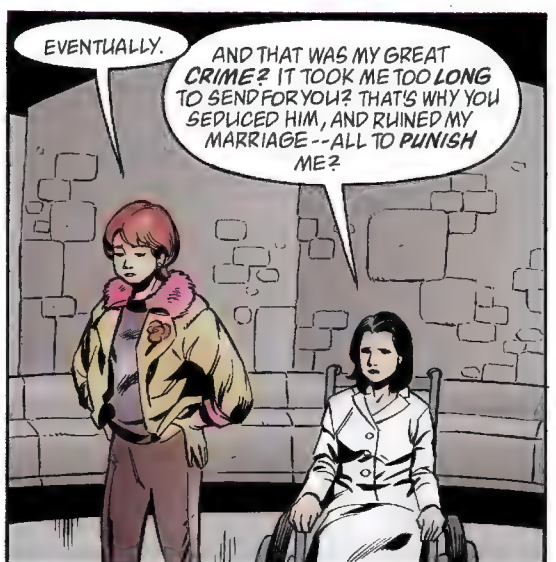
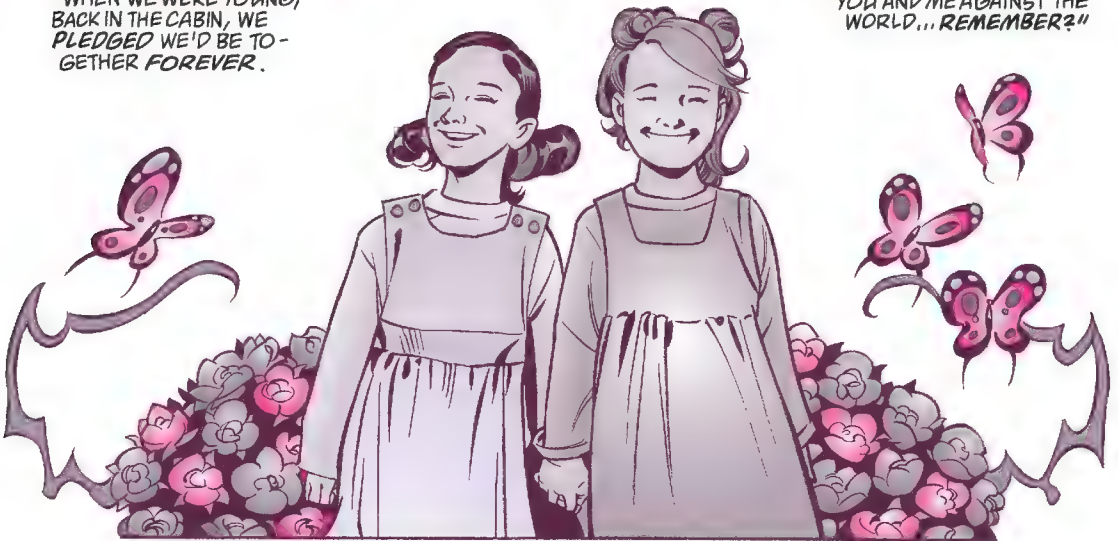
OH? HOW PERFECTLY NOBLE OF YOU.





"WHEN WE WERE YOUNG, BACK IN THE CABIN, WE PLEDGED WE'D BE TOGETHER FOREVER.

"YOU AND ME AGAINST THE WORLD... REMEMBER?"



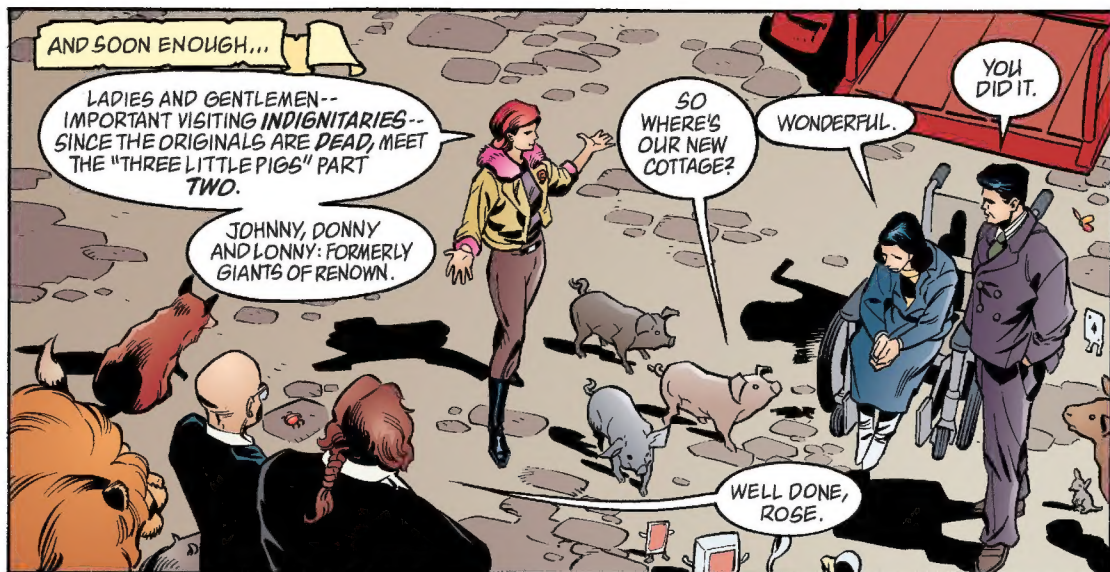


"AS MY FIRST OFFICIAL DUTY, I'VE ALREADY COME UP WITH A SOLUTION TO OUR GIANTS AND DRAGON PROBLEM. THEY DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO SLEEP FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS AND WHO CAN **BLAME** THEM? BUT IN THEIR PRESENT FORM WE COULD NEVER KEEP THEM OUT OF SIGHT, AND JUST KEEPING THEM FED IS ALREADY THREATENING TO STRIP THE FARM BARE. SO WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS MAKE A SACRIFICE IN THE **SHORT** TERM TO PREVENT A DISASTER IN THE **LONG** RUN."

OKAY, LISTEN UP, KIDS, BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO.

DO YOU GUYS KNOW WHAT A "PERMANENT TRANSFORMATION" SPELL IS?

"ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS AUTHORIZE THE USE OF THE DISCRETIONARY SPENDING BUDGET FOR **BOTH** FABLETOWNS FOR THE REST OF THIS YEAR, AND PROBABLY THE NEXT. WE HAVE TO BUY A **VERY** EXPENSIVE SET OF ENCHANTMENTS!"



AND SOON ENOUGH...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--  
IMPORTANT VISITING INDIGNITARIES--  
SINCE THE ORIGINALS ARE DEAD, MEET  
THE "THREE LITTLE PIGS" PART  
TWO.

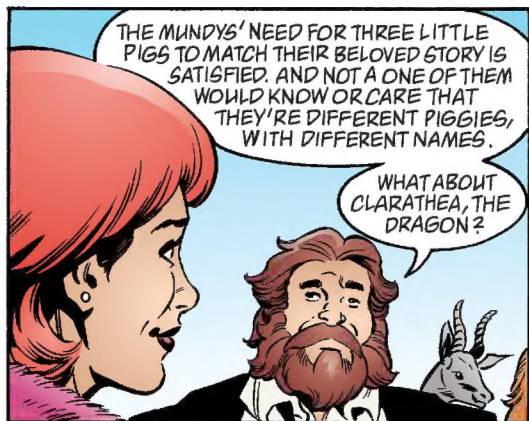
JOHNNY, DONNY  
AND LONNY: FORMERLY  
GIANTS OF RENOWN.

SO  
WHERE'S  
OUR NEW  
COTTAGE?

WONDERFUL.

YOU  
DID IT.

WELL DONE,  
ROSE.



THE MUNDYS' NEED FOR THREE LITTLE  
PIGS TO MATCH THEIR BELOVED STORY IS  
SATISFIED. AND NOT A ONE OF THEM  
WOULD KNOW OR CARE THAT  
THEY'RE DIFFERENT PIGGIES,  
WITH DIFFERENT NAMES.

WHAT ABOUT  
CLARATHEA, THE  
DRAGON?



CLARA IS NOW  
MY NEW BEST FRIEND  
AND ENFORCER.

ENFORCER?  
HOW?

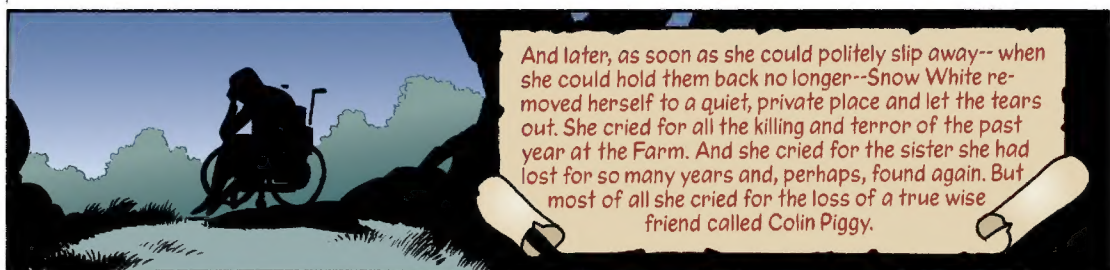


SHOW THEM,  
SWEETIE.

WE DECIDED TO  
HOLD ONTO ONE OF HER  
MORE ADVANTAGEOUS  
DRAGON QUALITIES. NO  
MORE REVOLUTIONS  
HERE.

WHOOOSH!

CHARMING.



And later, as soon as she could politely slip away-- when she could hold them back no longer-- Snow White removed herself to a quiet, private place and let the tears out. She cried for all the killing and terror of the past year at the Farm. And she cried for the sister she had lost for so many years and, perhaps, found again. But most of all she cried for the loss of a true wise friend called Colin Piggy.



NATHAN